



State of Washington
Department of Revenue

Excise Tax Advisory

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LIVERY SERVICE BUSINESSES

Issued September 23, 1966

What is the tax liability of livery service businesses which provide ambulances as well as funeral limousines and hearses and which, on occasion, rent vehicles without drivers?

The taxpayers, two livery service businesses, petitioned the Tax Commission for a determination of their tax liability in the following situations: One of the taxpayers furnished funeral limousines and hearses with operators and also provided ambulance services. On occasion, limousines and hearses were furnished without operators to funeral homes and mortuaries. The other taxpayer furnished funeral coaches with drivers to mortuaries. Both of the livery service businesses leased or purchased the vehicles used from out-of-state firms.

The Commission held that persons operating ambulances were taxable under the Service classification of the Business and Occupation Tax (see Rule 180) and that the same classification applied to the business of furnishing funeral coaches or limousines with drivers. Both taxpayers were ruled to be liable for the payment of the Retail Sales Tax upon their purchases or lease of vehicles used in providing such services. If, as on occasion, the taxpayers rented a vehicle without a driver, the Retailing Business Tax and Retail Sales Tax would apply to the gross charges for such rental. (Letter.)

ETBS have been made Excise Tax Advisories, and have retained their old number. Advisories with a 2 (plus three digits) are new advisories, ETBs that have been revised and readopted after review under the Department's regulatory improvement program, or advisories that have been revised and/or readopted.

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